

32.(Amended) A method of manufacturing a stent comprising the steps of:  
providing a tube having at least two different longitudinally spaced regions of different physical characteristics; and subsequently,  
cutting a plurality of openings in the tube to form a stent.

34.(Amended) The method of claim 32 wherein a first portion of the tube is characterized by a first porosity and a second portion of the tube, longitudinally spaced from the first portion of the tube, is characterized by a second porosity different from the first porosity.

#### REMARKS

This Amendment is in response to the Office Action dated October 9, 2002. In the Office Action, claims 23-30 and 32-40 are rejected. Several of the claims have been amended. A marked-up copy of the amended claim accompanies this amendment.

The paragraph numbering below corresponds to that of the Office Action.

#### (2)

Claims 23, 25, 26, 29, 30, 32, 34 and 35 were rejected under 35 USC 102(e) in light of Yan (US 5843172).

Applicant has amended independent claims 23 and 32 to recite that the tube is characterized by a longitudinal axis and has at least two different longitudinally spaced regions of different physical characteristics. These amendments do not narrow the scope of the claim as they are believed to merely explain the previously used 'axially spaced' term. Several of the dependant claims have also been amended to comport with the amended claim language of the independent claims.

The Office Action asserts that all of the features of the above claims are disclosed in Yan but does not point, with specificity, to the relevant disclosure in Yan. Yan does not disclose a tube having at least two different longitudinally spaced regions of different physical characteristics. To the extent that Yan shows regions of different porosity, the regions are spaced in a radial